

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for loading hierarchical data into a first relational table

comprising:

identifying a first node within the hierarchical data corresponding to a first

5 column in the relational table and second node associated with the first node

corresponding to data to be stored in a row of the table corresponding to the first  
column;

creating a record in a first buffer associated with the first relational table;

and

10 copying the record from the first buffer to the first relational table.

2. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the relational table is part of a  
relational database.

15 3. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the hierarchical data is XML  
data.

4. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the hierarchical data is identified  
to correspond to a column in the relational table by way of a hierarchical schema.

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5. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the buffer associated with first table is created after determining that the parent node of the first node within the hierarchical data is associated with the first relational table.

5 6. The method as recited in claim 1 further comprising a second relational table.

7. The method as recited in claim 5 further comprising creating a second buffer corresponding to the second relational table when a third node within the  
10 hierarchal data corresponds to a second relational table.

8. The method as recited in claim 7 further comprising:  
creating a record in the second buffer associated with the second  
relational table when a child node of the third node indicates that the hierarchical  
15 data comprises data associated with a column in the second relational table; and  
copying the record from the second buffer to the second relational table.

9. The method as recited in claim 8 further comprising copying the record  
from the first buffer to the first relational table substantially in parallel to copying  
20 the record from the second buffer to the second relational table.

11. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the first buffer comprises a disk  
5 file.

10 13. A computer-readable medium bearing computer readable instructions for  
carrying out the method recited in claim 1.

15 receiving a schema describing a relationship of nodes in the hierarchical  
data to at least one column in each of the at least two relational tables;

20 streaming the records into the at least two relational tables.

15. The method as recited in claim 14 further comprising creating a buffer for each of the at least two relational tables wherein the records are stored before being streamed into the at least two relational tables.

5    16.    The method as recited in claim 15 wherein the buffer comprises a file.

17. The method as recited in claim 14 wherein the hierarchical data is not size constrained.

10 18. The method as recited in claim 14 wherein the hierarchical data comprises  
an XML document.

19. The method as recited in claim 14 wherein the schema comprises an XML schema.

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20. The method as recited in claim 14 wherein the at least two tables have a relational relationship.

21. The method as recited in claim 14 wherein one of the at least one columns  
20 is a key field in one of the at least two tables and foreign key in the other one of  
the at least two tables, wherein the method further comprises populating records

associated with the at least two tables with the data associates with the one of the at least one columns.

22. The method as recited in claim 14 further comprising streaming the record  
5 into the at least two relational tables substantially in parallel.

23. The method as recited in claim 14 wherein the schema is received by way of a network connection.

10 24. A computer-readable medium bearing computer readable instructions for carrying out the method recited in claim 14.

25. A system for loading hierarchical data into at least two relational tables, comprising:

15 instructions for receiving a schema describing a relationship of nodes in the hierarchical data to at least one column in each of the at least two relational tables;

instructions for mapping the hierarchical data based on the schema and creating records from the hierarchical data from nodes associated identified as  
20 data to be stored in the at least one column in each of the at least two relational tables; and

instructions for streaming the records into the at least two relational tables.

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26. The system as recited in claim 25 further comprising instructions for creating a buffer for each of the at least two relational tables wherein the records are stored before being streamed into the at least two relational tables.

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27. The system as recited in claim 26 wherein the buffer comprises a file.

28. The system as recited in claim 25 wherein the hierarchical data comprises an XML document.

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29. The system as recited in claim 25 wherein the schema comprises an XML schema.

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30. The system as recited in claim 25 wherein the at least two tables have a relational relationship.

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31. The system as recited in claim 25 wherein one of the at least one columns is a key field in one of the at least two tables and foreign key in the other one of the at least two tables, wherein the system further comprises instructions for populating records associated with the at least two tables with the data associates with the one of the at least one columns.

32. The system as recited in claim 25 further comprising instructions for streaming the record into the at least two relational tables substantially in parallel.